LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANTS
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY
Purpose Area 1

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Traditionally, criminal justice agencies developed record keeping processes totally independent of other agencies within the system, and related service providers. In many cases the records maintained by the police, prosecutors, and courts all contained the same information, but were not shared. Increased demands for criminal justice service over the past ten years, has created substantial cost increases. Personnel cost remain at seventy-five percent or higher for criminal justice agencies.

Technological advancements have allowed for consolidation and easy access to information. Additionally, technology has substantially increased the ability of street officers to solve crime. Community and victim involvement can be enhanced through the use of technology. State and national integration will require total participation from all criminal justice agencies.

The use of technology can be objectively measured to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system, subsequently increasing the safety of residents.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program area has been designed to assist criminal justice agencies in reducing crime. Projects must demonstrate how the use of technology will increase efficiency, improve effectiveness, and enhance accuracy. This program area encourages implementation of mechanisms for the exchange of information from one data system to another, or the development of such systems. Primary focus is on case tracking systems through the criminal justice system.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal #1   Develop a county wide computer network to increase efficiency for criminal justice agencies.

Objective #1   Substantiated percentage decreases in the time and costs currently devoted to criminal case processing. Eliminate duplicate records building and storage.

Activities   Conduct a county wide needs assessment through the establishment of an Advisory Committee and/or professional service provider. Determine existing systems, duplication of systems and accessibility standards. Develop a strategic plan for shared system expansion. Conduct time and cost studies for current criminal case processing procedure.

Performance Measures   Implementation plan will be compared to the needs assessment. Percentage time and cost reductions will be compared to current operations.

Goal #2   Improve the effectiveness of criminal justice service providers.

Objective #1   Substantiated percentage crime reduction through the use of technology.

Activities   Directly link technology to assist in identifying, locating, and tracking offenders. Use technology to increase abilities to collect evidence, build records, enhance prosecution, and manage probation and parole. Involve the community through technology based crime prevention plans.

Performance Measures   Crime data will be compared before and after implementation of technology to determine percentage reductions. The number of offenders identified, located, successfully prosecuted, tracked through the judicial process, and monitored will be compared for percentage increases prior to implementation.

BJA REPORTING, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION METHODS

All projects funded through this program must:

- Report valid comparisons between what was being accomplished prior to and subsequent initiation.

- Report delivery mechanisms cost efficiency and effectiveness.

- Report projects impact on crime solving.

- Demonstrate abilities to share information locally, county, and statewide.